

30 Nov 92

STATE

Boycott keeps state guessing

Amendment 2 threat hard to gauge

By **Angela Dire**
Gazette Telegraph

Last week, as a California publishing company signed onto the small but growing economic boycott of Colorado, officials tried to maintain a calm front. But privately, a few were wringing their hands.

Would a boycott over this state's new and unprecedented ban on gay rights laws carry the same force as the one dealt Arizona after it rejected a Martin Luther King holiday? Or would this boycott fade into the obscurity of a hundred other boycotts that continue to protest everything from the redistricting of Dallas voters to the hunting of Montana buffalo?

Not many state tourism types want to hazard a guess.

"We just don't know at this time," said Rich Grant, spokesman for the Denver Convention and Visitors Bureau. But he added, "We're taking it seriously."

Only one group, Boycott Colorado, has actually endorsed economic sanctions against the state, and it has yet to convince any organization to just say no to



■ **Gay radio station opens in Denver/B5**

Colorado. Still, the idea of a boycott has gained momentum through the actions of individual groups and businesses.

The day after Coloradans solidly approved Amendment 2, which prohibits laws protecting gays from discrimination, a national organization of gay physicians canceled plans for an annual convention in Denver.

Now, organizations outside the gay movement have begun to join the protest, including the National Council for Social Studies, the American Law Library Association and the Coalition of Labor Union Women. The three conventions would have lured more than 10,000 visitors — all to Denver — and infused as much as \$10 million into the local economy. So far, Colorado Springs — home to the group that successfully pushed the amendment — has not lost any events.

But XChange, a small San Francisco publishing company, last week became the first business to boycott Colorado over Amendment 2. Its president, William Buckingham, announced Thursday that he would not move company headquarters to Fort Collins. Nine employees who are al-

See **BOYCOTT/A4**

Smiley N. Pool/Gazette Telegraph



■ **DENVER'S FIGHT**

Denver Mayor Wellington Webb addresses Amendment 2 opponents after the passage of the amendment on Nov. 3. Denver officials are working hard to counter the backlash over the amendment. A key victory came when a media group decided against cancelling its convention./A4

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"I've been so blessed. This show ("Blossom") has become my family. I know that when I go into the hospital, I don't go alone."

A slip of the tongue

At a tribute Saturday to the late **Roy Acuff**, country singer **Marty Stuart**, performing as a member of the Grand Ole Opry in Nashville, Tenn., for the first time, called the esteemed older performers in the audience "old farts." "If you don't mind," said Stuart, "I'd like to sing you not-so-new country fans an old favorite. That's just a polite way of saying I'd like to sing you old farts a song." An Opry spokesman said the phrase had slipped out because the singer was nervous, but "he did apologize."

Town honors Jimmy Stewart

Jimmy Stewart's hometown of Indiana, Pa., on Friday renamed the street where the actor grew up to honor his contribution to the town's "wonderful life." Part of Seventh Street was renamed Jimmy Stewart Boulevard "as a token of our appreciation for all that Mr. Stewart has done in remembering his hometown," said a proclamation signed by **Mayor John Varner**. Stewart, 84, did not attend the ceremony, but was represented by a boyhood friend, Bill Moorhead. Moorhead said the actor told him that he was happy and humbled to be honored.

Doo Dah draws thousands

The weird and wacky were on display Sunday as the irreverent Doo Dah Parade stumbled through Pasadena, Calif. There were two **Bill Clinton** look-alikes, one playing saxophone and the other being pursued by reporters. The 17th Occasional Doo Dah Parade, a spoof of the Tournament of Roses parade, drew an estimated 50,000 people who came to soak up the sun and double over in laughter. The parade featured the Butthead Marching Band, Virginia Slime and the Hacking Cough Drill Team, all sponsored by the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services' Tobacco Control Program. There was even a tribute to last spring's riots. Members of a group calling themselves the L.A. Looters raided a giant doughnut being rolled down the street while a character portraying a police officer ate pastries.

Gazette Telegraph news services

think came first and see how you do:

1. Father's Day, Mother's Day or Independence Day?
2. Frisbee, miniature golf or skateboard?
3. Mohammed, Buddha or Christ?
4. Zipper, toothbrush or lipstick?
5. Mickey Mouse, Felix the Cat, Garfield or Snoopy?

THE ANSWERS:

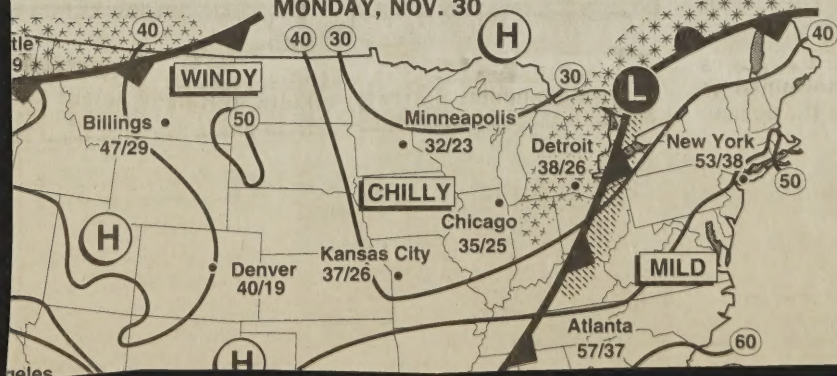
1. Independence Day (1776); Mother's Day (1908); Father's Day (1910).
2. Miniature golf (1929); Frisbee (1955); skateboard (1960).
3. Buddha (563-483 B.C.); Christ, (4 B.C.-30 A.D.); Mohammed (570-632 A.D.).
4. Toothbrush (1490); zipper (1893); lipstick (1915).
5. Felix (1920); Mickey Mouse (1928); Snoopy (1950); Garfield (1978).

DIDYA' KNOW?

'Tis the season to shop. Seventy-two percent of women responding to a Self magazine survey said shopping helped them when they felt depressed. A majority viewed shopping first as a recreational activity (72 percent), then as a necessity (22 percent) and finally as a chore (5 percent).

TODAY'S ACCU-WEATHER®

MONDAY, NOV. 30



STATE

Boycott/Officials look at Arizona's example as worst-case scenario

From A1

ready working in the firm's sales division there will stay.

"But none of the income will stay in Colorado," said Buckingham, who expects other companies to follow his lead. "I expect Colorado to be in deep trouble very shortly. There are rumblings. I've been to Philly and New York and L.A., and I know there is an incredible amount of dismay and anger at Colorado right now."

But how far will the backlash go? Some point to Arizona as a worst-case scenario. "The only thing comparable is the Arizona boycott," said Colorado College economist Bill Weida. "That was clearly successful."

In 1987, shortly after then-Gov. Evan Mecham rescinded a state holiday honoring Martin Luther King Jr., conventioners began to boycott the state. The effort escalated when the state's voters turned down two proposals to reinstate the holiday.

Over five years, their decision cost the city of Phoenix 166 conventions and a potential \$190 million. A wide array of groups pulled their convention business, from corporations to municipal groups such as the National League of Cities.

In what was perhaps the most crushing blow, the National Football League withdrew its offer to host the 1993 Super Bowl in Arizona. That event alone could have injected as much as \$200 million into the state's economy.

Stung by the boycott, officials in Arizona's tourism and convention industries conducted an aggressive campaign to reinstate the holiday this year. They targeted workers in their own industries, persuading thousands to register to vote. This time, more than 60 percent of Arizona voters ended up supporting the measure.

"It hurt," said Tony Alba, communication manager for the Phoenix Convention and Visitors Bureau, of the boycott. "It really did make our jobs very, very difficult. We had to compete on a whole different level — the first thing we had to do is compete with ourselves."

Still, under five years of economic sanctions, the city's convention business increased nearly 37 percent, from \$556 million to \$762 million. But Alba says the growth margin became smaller each year. "By 1991," he says, "we were hoping to have done \$900 million in business."

"It was a major factor here, and I think Colorado is going to have its problems," he said.

Others, like the Rev. Warren Stewart, are not so quick to make that comparison. A Baptist minister active in the effort to reinstate the Arizona holiday, Stewart opposes discrimination against gay people. But he isn't convinced that gay issues appeal to mainstream groups as strongly as issues of race. "We're not talking about apples and apples, in my opinion," he said.

Unlike the Arizona boycott, the Colorado effort lacks the muscle of a national organization. Well-established gay organizations such as the Human Rights Campaign Fund and the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force have hesitated to throw their weight behind the boycott. Equality Colorado, the group previously known as the Equal Protection Campaign that campaigned against Amendment 2, has also decided to remain neutral.

"At this point, we just don't think it's our role to advocate boycott," said Equality Colorado spokesman Tony Ogden. "This group has many members of the business community, and clearly we don't want to punish them."

So far, only Boycott Colorado, a group that sprang hastily out of a postelection community forum, has taken up the cry for economic sanctions. The group has yet to succeed in convincing any group or business to stay away from the state. However, group members say they're becoming more organized every day. They filed for incorporation Friday.

"Whether we're here or not, the boycott will continue," said spokesman Robert Briggs-Daniels.

That's what tourism officials fear, and they already are taking steps to head off any boycott, organized or not. In Denver, Mayor Wellington Webb's office has taken the lead in trying to head off the boycott, through national TV appearances and a letter-writing campaign to groups scheduled to hold conventions in the city.

Meanwhile, officials with the Colorado Tourism Board have been busy trying to calm angry callers, many of them from out of state. Since the amendment passed, they've fielded more than 2,000 phone calls.

In recent days, those calls have started to dwindle, said spokeswoman Deborah Cornelius.

But for how long? Only time will tell.

Denver wages a furious fight

City works to ward off boycott

By Louis Agullar/Gazette Telegraph

An intense lobbying effort by Denver to counter the backlash over Amendment 2 scored its first victory when the National Association of Hispanic Journalists decided to keep its March 1993 convention in the city.

The feverish lobbying effort has become a daily routine for staff at the mayor's office, at the city's convention and tourism bureau and at the Denver Chamber of Commerce since the Nov. 3 passage of Amendment 2. The amendment prohibits state and local governments from passing civil rights laws based on sexual orientation. It also repealed such laws in Denver, Boulder and Aspen.

Similar efforts to head off boycotts are going on in other cities and counties throughout the state, particularly in Aspen, but no group seems as aggressive as the one in Denver.

"We are on 100 percent counterattack," said Briggs Gambelin, a spokesman for Denver Mayor Wellington Webb. "We feel great we kept the NAHJ, but we have no time to celebrate it. We have to keep on top of this, and that means a lot — and I mean a lot — of phone calls, faxes, letters, you name it."

Denver has to be aggressive, officials say, because it has been the main economic victim of the uncoordinated but highly publicized boycott campaign. The city already has lost an estimated \$10 million in tourism money when three separate organizations canceled major conventions. Officials couldn't estimate how much the city would have lost if the 1,200 Hispanic journalists had canceled their four-day stay in March, but the recent loss of a convention of similar size reportedly cost the city \$3 million.

With that kind of money at stake, Webb has gone on the offensive by planning several appearances on national television, including an appearance Wednesday on Arsenio Hall's talk show. Webb is expected to plead with viewers not to punish Denver for an amendment that originated with a Colorado Springs group closely linked to conservative religious groups. Webb also plans to appear at a national press conference in New York City with a contingent of Denver civic and business leaders.

The day-to-day lobbying effort is being coordinated by three of Webb's staff members assigned to keep tabs on any new boycott threat. The staffers are working closely with a coalition of convention officials, civic leaders, the business community and national and local gay and lesbian groups to head off a boycott, organized or not.

Gambelin said the intense lobbying effort with the Hispanic media group characterizes the campaign going on right now with other organizations considering a boycott, but he refused to say how many groups the coalition is lobbying.

Association of journalists struggled with decision

The debate among leaders of the media association also highlights how at least one out-of-state organization had to grapple with the financial and political implications of a boycott.

Within days after the passage of Amendment 2, the idea of boycotting Colorado was being considered by the 16 members of the group's board. "The flood of calls that I received from NAHJ members and other board members started immediately," said Diane Alverio, the group's president and a television reporter in Hartford, Conn.

"I had board members calling me and saying 'Hey, we are not going to that state.' I had members who had been to every convention we've had saying they will not come. This became serious real fast," she said. Board members in Los Angeles, Chicago, Washington, D.C., Watsonville, Calif., and Englewood reported a similar backlash.

From the start, most board members considered the amendment discriminatory, as did roughly a third of the group's members who called their leaders. Said board member Laramie Trevino, a newspaper reporter in Watsonville, Calif.: "I have the impression that a conservative religious group in your town went out and targeted another group of people. They singled them out and said, 'These people are not like us, and we have to keep them at bay.'"

"As a minority, that kind of singling out and intolerance just scares me, and (the NAHJ) had a moral obligation to speak out against that."

But how the group should react to the amendment quickly became a thorny problem. The group's executive director, Jose McMurray, added, "By the end of the second week after the election, this became more than a decision about a convention. It became a symbolic political statement, and we knew it."

"We were having a strong moral and financial debate that seemed to get more intense by the day."

Denver officials' intense lobbying effort pays off

McMurray, based in Washington, D.C., said the group began searching for alternate convention sites in other states and had already figured out how much money it would lose by canceling contracts in Denver: an estimated \$100,000.

When the mayor's office got wind of the possible boycott, the Denver counteroffensive shifted into gear. Said Gambelin: "This was our chance. The other cancellations, we didn't have much chance to have a dialogue with the groups. This time we had a fighting chance."

City officials solicited Hispanics helping plan the convention and a group of Denver business leaders to kick off a letter-writing and fax campaign directed at the group's board. "I have a file an inch thick of these letters," said board member Alverio. Most of the letters pointed out that the majority of Denver citizens voted against the amendment and that the city has officially joined a lawsuit to overturn it.

Among those in the letter-writing campaign were Webb, three Latino members of Denver's City Council, members of the Chamber of Commerce, convention officials and the editor of the Denver Post.

As it debated a boycott, the media group sought the opinion of state and national homosexual groups. "We talked to the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, the Human Rights Campaign Fund, Equality Colorado, and they said they were remaining neutral," McMurray said. "If they all would have said don't go, the vote would probably have been different."

The intense lobbying against a boycott continued right up to the vote, held late Tuesday in a conference call among board members.

In Denver, members of the local planning committee and several gay and lesbian representatives waited in another room while board member Ernest Gurule, a TV reporter, cast his vote by phone.

"I felt like I was in that room waiting for Ernest to come out for a day," said Judy Montero, one of those helping plan the convention. The vote made the day for Denver officials: Only three members of the 16-member board voted to boycott Colorado.

One of those who voted for the boycott was Chicago radio reporter Rod Sierra: "I wasn't swayed by the argument we were unfairly punishing Denver economically. That's like Lincoln saying he's not going to free the slaves because suddenly they would all be unemployed."

"No one is going to lose their job over our cancellation, and it would have been a stronger symbolic message if we just said no to Colorado." Still, Sierra added, the March convention can be used as a national forum among journalists to debate Amendment 2.

Said Montero, who poured hours of her time into convincing the group to stay: "I couldn't agree more. Debate it, and debate it in the proper location — Colorado."

N GULF

making nuclear arms

toward Iran. The review will try to determine whether the incoming Clinton administration could or should improve relations with Iran, a senior State Department official said.

In defense of its arms purchases, Iran points to Iraq's aggression during its eight-year war with Iran, its exclusion from regional security arrangements in the gulf region and the immutability of geography: a 1,050-mile border with the Central Asian republics; a 900-mile border with Iraq; a 1,570-mile coastline; plus borders with Afghanistan, Pakistan and Turkey.

But Iran's leaders deny interest in developing a nuclear weapon. "We have no need for nuclear weapons," Deputy Foreign Minister Ali Mohamad Besharati was quoted as saying on Iran's official radio Friday. He described press reports that Iran was planning to acquire nuclear weapons as "a lie and a plot."

The draft CIA report, known as a national intelligence estimate, was written after a long debate in the CIA. The report reflects views first expressed by CIA Director Robert Gates in testimony before Congress in March.

But the report, which goes further than the last formal estimate on Iran, is expected to be fiercely contested when it is reviewed for approval by the nation's other intelligence agencies this week.

The earlier report, written late last year, concluded only that at least some of Iran's revolutionary leaders were intent on developing nuclear weapons but said the program was disorganized and in an early stage of development.

The new report says Iran's president, Hashemi Rafsanjani, has built a team of nuclear experts, many of them U.S.-educated, to direct a nuclear program.

Associated Press



Russian President Boris Yeltsin over his reforms when the Congress of People's Deputies opens Tuesday.

Khasbulatov has been accused of reform and has caused too much power to the hands of the legislature.

into four main groupings, members, about 79 percent of them are not faction members. National Salvation Front or the former Communists, 355 deputies. Two centrist groups, the Democratic Forces and the Democrats, a total of 357 members. Most strength since the most recent April; they number about 107

opinion polls indicate members are more hostile to reform than the population. But Yeltsin's economic reforms are rising in popularity.

Yeltsin invoked his standing as the one official elected by all Russians, and declared to an auditorium full of ardent supporters Sunday that he would not depart from his policies.

"Let those who dream about that know, it is not my rule to depart from the main cause of my entire life, the more so as I have a blessing from the citizens of Russia who elected me their president," Yeltsin declared.

"I have received the highest mandate for the carrying out of reforms and I shall remain committed to this policy, whatever turn things may take."

In a significant shift in his political strategy, Yeltsin announced that he was forming a political party for supporters of his policies.

He had previously argued that as a nationally elected president, he was above such politics.

But his opponents have formed organized coalitions, most notably the centrist Civic Union, and his own support has splintered because of a lack of leadership.

Germany's rampant violence

by criminals in recent years, farmers in some areas live under siege conditions, and life for many whites has become tense and fearful.

Whites are starting to find out what life has been like for blacks for a long time. Many expect life to get more dangerous.

Killings of blacks, usually by other blacks, have become commonplace.

Only major massacres, deaths of 20 people or more, grab major attention anymore. The violence is inflamed by everything from clashes between rival political groups to soaring crime and the collapse of law and order.

Right-wing whites warn of an impending race war. Some tiny extremist white groups have formed private armies.

George van der Smit, a white extremist, said he left the former South African colony of Namibia because he knew black majority rule was inevitable there.

"I could see the blacks were going to take over," he said. "Now the same is happening here, and there is nowhere to go, so we must fight. We must fight to the death for our land."

But the white extremists have largely been discredited by their tendency to talk big and not act.

Many whites say the only hope is an accommodation with the black majority. Despite centuries of racial conflict, there is good will among many whites and blacks.

GERMANY

Neo-Nazis to challenge ban in court

Case could force judges to examine police methods

New York Times News Service

BERLIN — A leader of the neo-Nazi Nationalist Front, which was banned by the government Friday, said the group would battle in court for its right to exist.

Such a case could force German judges to decide which police methods are appropriate to repress violent rightists.

Many politicians and commentators Sunday applauded signs that the government was beginning a crackdown on rightist violence, and several called for further measures.

According to the newspaper Welt am Sonntag, Chancellor Helmut Kohl's Christian Democratic Union will soon ask Parliament to pass several new criminal laws. One proposal would allow the police to immediately jail anyone who refuses to leave the scene of a street conflict.

In a radio interview Sunday, Kohl vowed that Germany would use the full force of the law against "the radical right mob."

A prominent member of Parliament, Horst Ehlmann, urged that 1,000 experienced judges be sent from western Germany to courts in eastern Germany. He said this would allow quicker prosecution of detainees accused of violent crimes.

Minister of Justice Sabine Leutheusser-Schnarrenberger said she was trying to introduce new police procedures to allow the immediate imprisonment of rioters. She also called for a ban on all Nazi symbols and "forms of greeting."

The police reported Sunday that searches of apartments and offices used by members of the Nationalist Front had produced uniforms, weapons, explosives, and a "death list" containing names of police investigators.

In an interview released before its scheduled publication today, Theo Scholz, the second-ranking figure in the Nationalist Front, told the newspaper Westfalen-Blatt that Meinolf Schoenborn, the leader of the Nationalist Front, was in hiding.

"We don't know if there is an arrest warrant out for Meinolf, but we don't want to take any chances," Scholz said.

Scholz, 38, declined to answer many of the newspaper's questions, saying he wanted to "stay quiet" in the wake of the ban.

He said a court complaint would be filed soon on the part of the Nationalist Front, the first organization banned in Germany since the country was unified two years ago. The ban followed a rising outcry from people who charged that the government was not doing enough to counter rightist violence. The Nationalist Front is said to have about 130 members.

ALSO SUNDAY

■ In western Germany, a refugee center was firebombed. No injuries were reported in the attack early Sunday in Lingen, near the Dutch border.

In Eberswalde, 25 miles northeast of Berlin, a fire at about midnight Saturday destroyed a barracks housing 60 refugees. Police were investigating the cause of the fire.

■ In Turkey, German flags were burned amid cries of "Down with skinheads!" and "Death to murderers!" at the funeral for three Turkish victims of the right-wing extremist violence in Germany. Thousands attended the funeral in the city of Carsamba.

■ In Jerusalem, the Israeli Cabinet denounced German racist and anti-Semitic attacks and demanded that German officials fight right-wing extremism with "the full force of the law."